UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/ 7013

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

IPF:(1987-91) $550 000
(UAE/90/004) - Establishment of National Meteorological Service (Phase 1) - Establishment of Central Forecasting Office

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	20 March 1991
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Communications
Proposed UNDP contribution:	NIL
Government cost sharing:	$760 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$760 000

Project background

Meteorological activities in the United Arab Emirates started with the British Royal Air Force in Sharjah providing services to flights between the United Kingdom and the Far East. This resulted in the establishment of a network of meteorological stations in the Gulf area. Following independence, meteorological services were provided by private companies on a contractual basis to each Emirate according to local needs, mainly for aviation operations. Oil companies have made their contribution to the network in establishing their own marine stations. In 1971, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took over the responsibility of maintaining a network of 50 stations; and rainfall, agrometeorological and climatological for its hydrometeorlogical activities.

The present network of stations in the United Arab Emirates comprises five synoptic stations, one upper-air station, nine climatological, three agrometeorological and a number of rainfall stations, in addition to the network operated by the military. Facilities for the reception of certain weather satellite data are available at some international airports. Upper-air stations are insufficient to give good coverage of the upper-air profile of the atmosphere. The network, both upper-air and surface, could be improved with additional stations at strategic positions. In this regard, the data coverage is generally far from satisfactory as there is no co-

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

ordinated arrangement for the official archiving and storing of meteorological data. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries maintains a network of climatological stations in the Northern Emirates for the study of water resources and agriculture. These records are no longer published due to budgetary constraints. Port authorities and oil companies make marine observations available only on request or through bilateral arrangements. Consequently, there is no proper management of meteorological data and no arrangement for the production of user-friendly climatological products. Data collection, processing and quality control are areas that would need improvement.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to provide institution building to the Ministry of Communications through revision of inputs enabling the establishment of a Central Forecasting Office which will be considered the nucleus of the National Meteorological Service of the Country. The project will promote regional co-operation and provide meteorological information required for environmental pollution monitoring.

The establishment of a fully operational and effective Central Forecasting Office, capable of providing different weather forecasts to different users will include:(i) meteorological telecommunication facilities including a satellite ground receiving system in operation; (ii) meteorological products including weather maps, weather forecasts to aviation and non-aviation users; (iii) calibrated meteorological observation from the surface network; and (iv) two trained nationals in the field of meteorology and established meteorological library.

The Central Forecasting Office is expected to be operational within the first quarter of its commencement. It will provide meteorological information and the forecasts required, will analyze weather charts and other meteorological information in an operational format, and distribute them to all users.

Inputs

With 100 per cent Government cost sharing, UNDP will provide three international staff: (i) chief technical advisor (24 man-months), a consultant in satellite meteorology (1.5 man-months) and one consultant in telecommunications (one man-moths); (ii) support personnel; an administrative officer; administrative clerk, secretary and driver for a total of 24 man-months except the driver, 72 man-months; (iii) satellite receiving equipment; observation instruments; meteorological and ICAO publications and training aids, as well as fellowships for four or five nationals to include post-graduate training in meteorological institutions abroad.

The Government, in turn, will provide three senior meteorologists (24 man-months each), two meteorologists (24 man-months each), one senior meteorological assistant (24 man-months) and nine meteorological assistants (24 man-months), and project facilities.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	406 300
Training	37 500
Equipment	295 000
Miscellaneous	4 200
Total	760 000